

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

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R 151557Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6921

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3723

LIMDIS

DEPT PASS ME ADDRESSES AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF

SUBJ: SOVIET VIEWS ON ME DEVELOPMENTS

1. SUMMARY. IN DISCUSSION OF ME DEVELOPMENTS WITH EMBOFF MARCH 15, MFA DEPUTY CHIEF NEAR EAST COUNTRIES DIVISION PYRLIN SAID EGYPT AND SYRIA ARE ANXIOUS TO HAVE GENEVA CONFERENCE RECONVENED AND SUPPORT SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN ALL CONFERENCE NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID SYRIA IS SERIOUS ABOUT DISENGAGEMENT, BUT THERE IS CONCERN ABOUT HAVING A LINK BETWEEN SEPARATION OF FORCES AND ISRAELI COMMITMENT TO A ME SETTLEMENT. PYRLIN DENIED ARAFAT HAS BEEN INVITED TO MOSCOW AND SHOWED NO ENTHUSIASM FOR PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE. HE DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF MOSCOW BROADCASTS URGING ARABS TO SUSTAIN THE OIL EMBARGO AND REITERATED THAT SOVIET POLICY VIEWED USE OF THE OIL WEAPON AS AN ARAB MATTER. END SUMMARY.

2. ON GENERAL EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE ME SETTLEMENT, PYRLIN AS USUAL FOCUSED ON THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE SAID GROMYKO HAD DISCUSSED CONFERENCE WITH EGYPTIANS  
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AND SYRIANS. EGYPTIANS WERE ANXIOUS TO REOPEN THE

CONFERENCE AND BOTH SYRIANS AND EGYPTIANS WANTED PARTICIPATION OF THE CO-CHAIRMEN IN ALL ITS ORGANIZATIONS OR WORKING GROUPS. PYRLIN NOTED THAT CO-CHAIRMEN HAD NOT PARTICIPATED IN MILITARY WORKING GROUP. ASKED WHEN HE THOUGHT HE WOULD RETURN TO GENEVA, HE SAID CONFERENCE WOULD PROBABLY RECONVENE ONLY AFTER SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT WAS COMPLETED. HE SAID HE THOUGHT HE WOULD RETURN ABOUT MID-APRIL.

3. ON DISENGAGEMENT, PYRLIN SAID SYRIA IS VERY SERIOUS ABOUT REACHING AGREEMENT. HE UNDERSTOOD SYRIAN CHIEF OF STAFF AND ANOTHER SYRIAN MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE ARRIVING IN WASHINGTON TOMORROW (MARCH 16). CHIEF CONCERN REGARDING DISENGAGEMENT IS QUESTION OF ISRAELI COMMITMENT THAT DISENGAGEMENT BE REGARDED AS PART OF SETTLEMENT. HE SAID GROMYKO HAD RAISED THIS PROBLEM WITH FAHMY IN CAIRO. BUT CAIRO WAS NOT CONCERNED THAT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT DIDNOT CONTAIN SPECIFIC LINK BETWEEN DISENGAGEMENT AND SETTLEMENT. PYRLIN DID NOT AMPLIFY REMARKS ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF SUCH A COMMITMENT IN SYRIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT, BUT LEFT IMPRESSION THAT SOVIETS VIEWED IT TO BE IN THE SYRIANS, INTEREST.

4. PYRLIN SAID MEETING BETWEEN ARAFAT AND GROMYKO HAD OCCURRED AT REQUEST OF SADAT. MEETING, FIRST BETWEEN ARAFAT AND #HIGH LEVEL" SOVIET GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE, EXPLORED GENRRAL QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN ROLE IN ME SETTLEMENT EFFORTS. PYRLIN SAID ARAFAT THANKED SOVIETS FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN CAUSE. BUT COULD NOT GIVE CLEAR RESPONSES TO GROMYKO'S QUESTIONS ABOUT PALESTINIAN OBJECTIVES. PYRLIN SAID SITUATION THUS REMAINS THE SAME -- "STILL NO UNITY." HE SAID WHOLE PALESTINIAN QUESTION IS ALSO CONFUSED BY ARAB STATES' DIFFERENT POSITIONS ON PALESTINIANS. RECALLING ALGIERS RESOLUTION DESIGNATING PLO AS PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVE, HE SAID DIFFERENT STATES SUPPORT DIFFERENT PALESTINIAN ORGAINZATIONS. EGYPTIANS SUPPORT ARAFAT, SYRIANS SUPPORT SAIQ'A, AND IRAQIS

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SUPPORT HABASH. PYRLIN, AS HE HAS PREVIOUSLY, ALSO RAISED IDEA OF PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE. EGYPTIANS, HE SAID, CONTINUE TO PUSH THIS IDEA, BUT THERE ARE COMPLICATIONS. IN ADDITION TO LACK OF PALESTINIAN UNITY, PALESTINIANS HAVE NO TERRITORY (PYRLIN HERE REFERRED TO HISTORY OF CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE DURING WORLD WAR II) AND THIS IS MAJOR OBLSTACLE TO FORMING GOVERNMENT.

5. EMBOFF NOTED THAT WESTERNNEWS MEDIA WERE REPORTING MOSCOW RADIO HAS URGED ARAB STATES TO SUSTAIN OIL EMBARGO AGAINST U.S. PYRLIN WAS VAGUE. HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED CABLE FROM SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON (VORONTSOV) REPORTING SUCH STORIES, BUT HE "COULD NOT SAY" WHAT WAS ON MOSCOW RADIO'S RABIC SERVICE. NONE-THELESS, "OUR CORRESPONDENTS KNOW OUR POLICY" THAT ANY DECISION ON THE OIL WEAPON IS A MATTER FOR ARASBS TO MAKE.

6. PYRLIN ALSO OFFERED VIEW THAT RECENT EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC PROGRAM, WHICH HE AGREED APPEARED TO OPEN EGYPT TO BROADER FOREIGN INVESTMENT, IS RESULT OF INTERNAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. ECONOMIC RECOVERY FROM WAR WOULD BE MAJOR PROBLEM. HE SAID FAHMY TOLD GROMYKO THAT EGYPT WOULD WELCOME ASSISTANCE FROM ALL SOURCES,"EAST AND WEST." PYRLIN SHOWED MARKED INTEREST IN THE CLEARING OF THE SUEZ CANAL ESPECIALLY ANY ROLE UF U.S. MILITARY IN THE OPERATION HE SAID FAHMY HAD THANKED GROMYKO FOR SOVIET'S OFFER OF ASSISTANCE IN CLEARING AND RESTORING CANAL.

7. FOR THE RECORD, PYRLIN SAID GROMYKO VISIT TO DAMASCUS AND CAIRO HAD PROVIDED USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT TRIP HAD BEEN ESPECIALLY USEFUL BECAUSE IT WAS GROMYKO'S FIRST VISIT TO AN ARAB COUNTRY OTHER THAN EGYPT. HE HAD BEEN IN EGYPT SEVEN TIMES.  
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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ME ADDRESSEES.CONFIDENTIAL  
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